

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST

Vol. XXXII.

APRIL, 1918.

No. 1.

FOREWORD.

With the appearance of this number of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST a new era in the history of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is launched.

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST was established in 1887 as the organ of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. It is now in its thirty-second year and is one of the oldest natural history periodicals in North America. While modest in form and not too prepossessing in appearance, it has published many important papers and the great number of original descriptions that have appeared in its pages makes it files a necessity in libraries of original research in biology.

The time has come, however, when a local periodical of this nature is inadequate and the Dominion requires a more creditable and representative publication for the record and dissemination of the results of scientific research. THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, with its already established position, long and honorable history and scientific standing, seems a logical nucleus from which such a publication should be developed.

Beginning, therefore, with this number, THE OTTAWA NATURALIST will appear in an improved form. The size is enlarged and the number of pages increased. The better paper used throughout will permit of more and finer illustrations; these will improve the appearance and add interest and value to the magazine. To widen its geographical sphere of influence a change of name to one of less local significance is being considered but cannot, by the constitution of the Club, be effected until next year.

In order to reach the highest possible degree of usefulness, the interests of the general, the educational and the technical public will be considered. Teachers in the various schools of Canada, will, it is hoped, find in the pages of THE NATURALIST information which will be of value to them in connection with their teaching of elementary natural

science and nature study. It will, therefore, be the editorial policy to publish papers that will appeal to each of these classes of readers.

The further improvement of the publication will rest entirely with the public and the amount of support received will decide whether it succeeds or fails. This fundamental change will naturally involve additional expense, but we have enough faith in the necessity and promising nature of the enterprise to count upon the support of the nature lovers and workers of the Dominion.

We have long felt that there was a field in Canada for such a magazine for the permanent recording of noteworthy biological data and as an assistance and source of pleasure to nature lovers in general.

The proposed increase in size, improvement in appearance and widened geographical appeal involves a heavy financial burden that can be covered only by an enlarged and nation-wide subscription list.

Members of the Club and present subscribers are urgently invited to assist in building up the subscription list. Names of new subscribers with remittances should be sent to the Treasurer of the Club, Mr. J. R. Dymond, Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The subscription price is the same as heretofore, namely \$1.00 per year. If personal cheques are remitted, ten cents should be added to cover bank's exchange. Nine numbers will constitute a volume, no issues appearing for the months of June, July and August.

Natural history societies throughout Canada are also invited to join with us in making this publication not only indispensable to every working naturalist but one which will be found acceptable to a very large class of people who are always eager to read of the things of nature.